United Nations ECE/EX/2014/L.4

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
3 February 2014

English

Original: English, French, Russian

Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Sixty-sixth meeting
Geneva, 6 February 2014
Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Housing and Land Management

Draft Decision

Renewal of the mandate and Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group under the Committee on Housing and Land Management[1]

1. At its seventy-fourth session (Geneva, 7-9 October 2013), the Committee on Housing and Land Management discussed the renewal of the mandate of the Real Estate Market (REM) Advisory Group (according to the Terms of Reference as contained in ECE/HBP/2011/4).

2. In this regard, the Committee agreed to recommend to EXCOM for the renewal of the mandate of the REM Advisory Group for one year.

3. The Executive Committee hereby approves the renewal of the mandate of the REM Advisory Group until 31 December 2014, with the Terms of Reference as contained in Annex.

[1] The mandate and terms of reference in this decision replaces those previously approved by the Executive Committee. During the review of the 2005 ECE Reform, EXCOM agreed that existing subsidiary bodies of ECE could continue to function without further approval for their extension from EXCOM, until the end of the review process (Item 5 of EXCOM/CONCLU/45). Thus no request for renewal was submitted in the period 2011-2013.

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Annex

Terms of Reference of the Real Estate Market Advisory Group

I. Mandate

1. The Real Estate Market Advisory Group (REM) is an advisory body to the Committee on Housing and Land Management. It also provides advice to the Working Party on Land Administration.

2. The objective of the Advisory Group is to support improved planning and implementation by Member States in the areas outlined below, based upon policy tools and recommendations issued by the Committee and the Working Party and supported by the Advisory Group:

- Efficiency of services;
- Prerequisites for development of sound real estate markets;
- Good governance;
- Sustainable financing;
- Transparency and advanced financial products;
- Property valuation;
- Social housing;
- Training and capacity-building.

3. The Advisory Group creates no additional financial implications for the United Nations.

II. Activities

4. The activities of the Advisory Group include:

- To advise the Committee and the Working Party on their activities and ECE member States on practical arrangements for the implementation of policy recommendations and specific activities to achieve optimal results at the country level in the areas listed above;
- To contribute to the work of the Committee and the Working Party through capacity-building activities and dissemination of information, good practices and know-how in ECE member countries on the above policy areas as linked with practical activities and projects in individual countries;
- To expand the network of experts available to support relevant activities through networking with global and regional financial institutions, lender and donor organizations, non-governmental organizations and the business community, with a view to making its activities and assistance to ECE member countries more efficient and practical.

5. The Advisory Group will also, according to the needs expressed by member States and the decisions taken by the Committee:

(a) Provide practical advice on the challenges addressed by the Committee and the Working Party to improve the environment for real estate investments, real estate markets and housing development;

(b) Promote policy frameworks and best practices that support sustainable real estate markets including best practices in promoting investment in national real estate sectors in individual countries;

(c) Undertake studies and advisory missions, organize seminars and training workshops, draft policy models and guidelines, collect data, and provide information and training kits;

(d) Develop and carry out specific projects, as agreed by the Committee Bureau and subject to available funding;

(e) Assist countries in training and capacity-building within the real estate and land administration sectors. When appropriate, participate as an expert in advisory missions and in workshops, and provide expertise for preparing documentation and studies;

(f) Promote public-private partnerships in land administration;

(g) Collect good practice of experiences on land administration reform in the ECE region.

6. The activities of the Advisory Group contribute to the programme of work of the Committee and the Working Party. The Advisory Group may put forward proposals for activities within this framework according to its terms of reference. The final decision on activities to be carried out by the Advisory Group remains with the Committee. The Committee is expected to benefit from the additional expertise on real estate markets that will be provided.

III. Membership and composition of the Group

7. The Advisory Group consists of experts from the private sector, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and professional associations dealing with the promotion of the real estate market, financial services and land administration. The Bureau of the Committee invites experts to become members of the Advisory Group in their personal capacity; the Advisory Group can propose suitable candidates.

8. The composition of the Group should be in line with the following rules and principles:

(a) The Advisory Group should consist of not more than nine people, who will be invited in their personal capacity; initially the Advisory Group can be based on the current six members;

(b) Functional and geographical representation should be considered in the selection process;

(c) A Chair and one or two vice-chairs will be elected;

(d) The composition should relate to the substantive needs of the Committee, as reflected in its programme of work;

(e) Experts from non-governmental organizations and the private sector are eligible to become members.

IV. Modalities of operation

9. The Advisory Group operates in accordance with the guidelines for the establishment and functioning of teams of specialists within ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1).

10. The Advisory Group reports to and is supervised by the Committee. It works in close cooperation with the secretariat and the Bureau of the Committee and participates in Bureau meetings as observers. Attendance at such meetings is normally delegated to the Chair and/or vice-chairs of the Advisory Group. Other members will be invited as necessary. The secretariat provides the necessary administrative support to the Advisory Group's activities once they have been agreed by the Committee.

11. The Advisory Group identifies resources required for implementing its work plan. For this purpose it may raise funds and/or solicit contributions in kind to support its activities, in compliance with United Nations rules and regulations.

12. Advisory Group members may involve any organization and/or expert necessary to assist them in their work. Before any engagement, however, the Group shall give prior notice to the Bureau and to the ECE secretariat about the person they intend to use and give the justification for their involvement.

13. Examples of such organizations and experts who may assist in carrying out projects include:

- Government organizations
- NGOs, Real Estate Professional Organizations and International bodies
- Financial organizations
- Mixed organizations constituted by public and private partnerships (PPP)
- International experts with specific and direct knowledge regarding the individual problems and needs of recipient countries.